

**From:** m.j.m@eskimo.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/21/02 12:33am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Judge Kollar-Kotally,

The proposed Microsoft Settlement is a very bad idea. It does nothing to end Microsoft's illegal monopoly in spite of the fact that every federal court that has looked at the facts has found that Microsoft violated U.S. antitrust laws. And it does nothing to prevent Microsoft from extending it's current monopoly into new areas like it's .NET Internet plans. Furthermore it does not punish Microsoft, financially or otherwise, for it's past statutory violations and financial gains from it's illegal activities.

I could go on with more technical details about why this settlement is nothing more than a political expediency, but since I'm sure you will be getting a lot of mail with specifics about what is wrong with it, let me give you a personal experience I recently had. I use Linux and I want to buy a new PC without Microsoft software on it since I don't want to pay for something I won't be using. I tried Dell, Gateway, and Compaq and not one of them would sell me a machine without Windows. Mind you, I wasn't asking them to sell me one with Linux (although that would be nice), but just without Microsoft software. Furthermore I recently had a cable modem installed and the installer said he needed Microsoft Windows running on my PC to do the installation (even though the cable modem works fine with Linux).

There are those who are happy with only having to deal with one operating system because it makes their life easier. And sometimes it's best to have a monopoly (e.g., telephones, electricity, etc.), but it's NEVER a good idea to have an unregulated monopoly. That Microsoft has a monopoly is an undisputed fact. Either breakup the Microsoft monopoly or regulate them.

-- Mel Melchner  
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